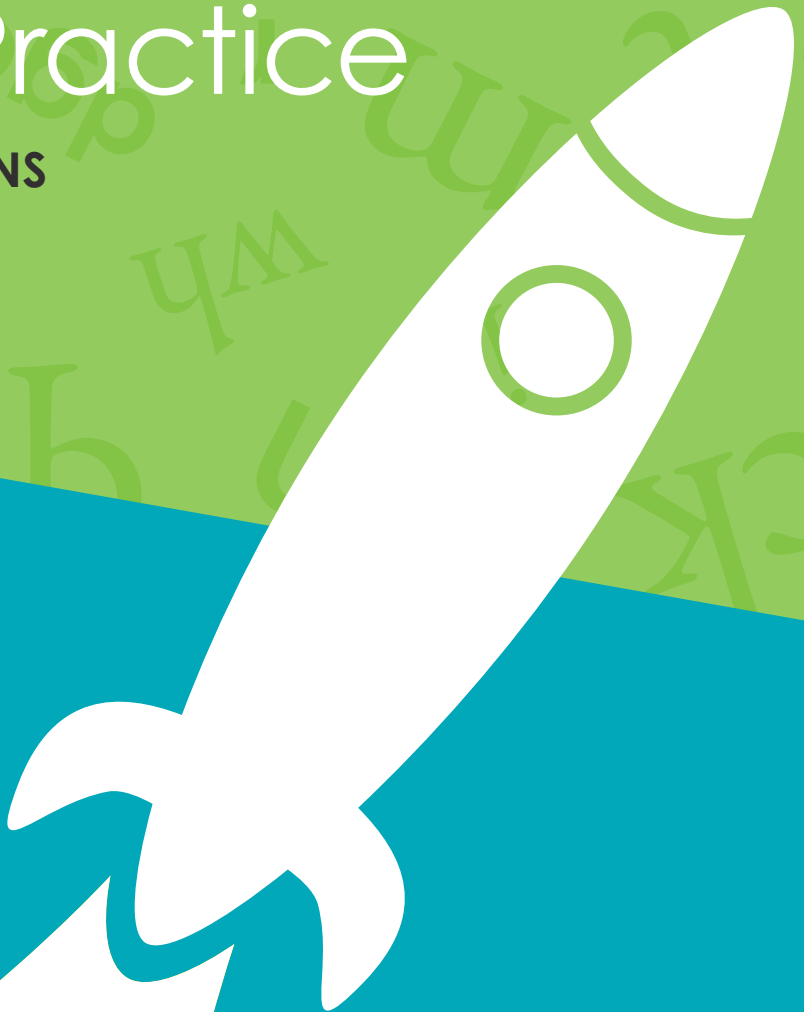




# Oral Reading Fluency Practice

FOR BLAST FOUNDATIONS



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# How to Use the Blast Passages for Fluency Practice

## Blast Passages Quick Overview

The *Blast Passages* are strictly controlled. This means that each unit's passage only includes words with phonics concepts that your child has learned how to read. In addition to the decodable, or readable, words, the passages include some high-frequency words your child has already learned. The passages may also include up to five high-frequency words your child has not explicitly learned yet. Those words are listed at the top of the page for you to preview with your child before reading the passage and they are underlined in the passages.

## Using the Blast Passages for Oral Reading Fluency Practice

When children read accurately, their comprehension improves because they are correctly interpreting the words on the page. Helping your child identify incorrectly read words as they read aloud helps them understand how important it is to read each word correctly.

The two most important pieces of fluency are accuracy and speed. The focus should always be on accuracy first, and then speed can be addressed. Using the oral reading procedure listed below will help your child achieve this goal.

## One-Minute Cold Read (First Reading, Beginning of the Week)

It would be useful to print two copies of the passage before starting so that you and your child can each have your own copies. You will be marking up mistakes and words read on your copy.

Using the passage for the unit your child is currently working on, have your child first read the passage for one minute, starting with a preview of the Words to Preview at the top left of the page, at the beginning of the week. During this read:

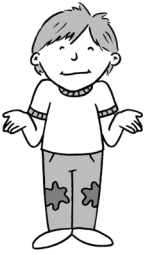
1. Review the "Words to Preview" at the top left of the passage with your child. This will help your child read these words more smoothly when he or she encounters them in the passage.
2. The child reads for just **one minute** independently and aloud. Stop your child at one minute and mark the last word they read at the one-minute mark.
3. As your child reads, mark any errors they make.
  - a. If your child reads a word incorrectly or skips a word, cross that word out. However, if your child corrects the word on his or her own, do not count it as an error.
  - b. If your child adds a word, write the word in where it was added.

WORDS TO PREVIEW:  
could, when, take, gave

BLAST UNIT 5  
Short u  
133 words

### The Rush to Camp

Gus was in a rush to get to camp. He could take a bus. 14  
He could grab a cab. He had no cash, so he had to run 28  
fast! Gus ran, but he did trip and land in the mud. When 41  
he got to camp, his dad had a big grin, but his dad saw 55  
the mud on his hands. Gus said, "I had no cash, so I had to 70  
run in the hot sun. I did slip in a rut, so now I have mud on 87  
my hands." His dad was not mad. He gave Gus a hug and 100  
said to hop in the tub. When Gus got 109  
rid of the mud, he had fun at camp. His 119  
dad gave him cash, so Gus could take 127  
a cab when he must go. 133



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## How to Use the Blast Passages for Fluency Practice

4. Chart your child's Accuracy Percentage and Words Correct Per Minute using the chart on p. 6 of this document.

a. Calculating Words Correct Per Minute:

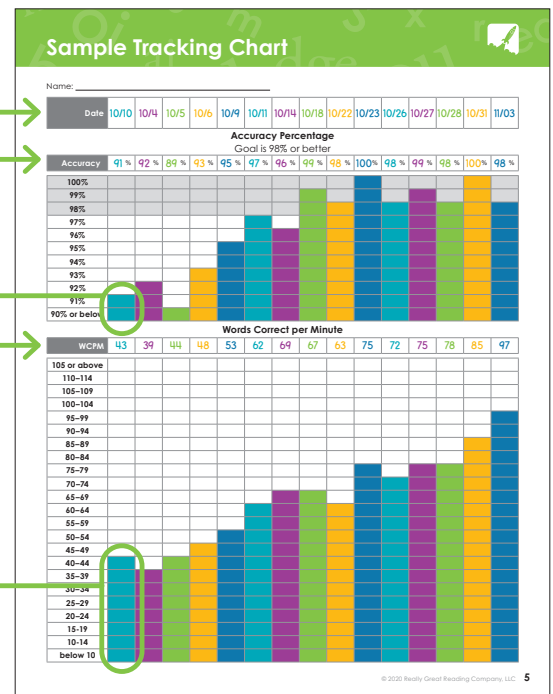


b. Calculating Accuracy Percentage:



c. Charting with the Tracking Chart

- Record the date on the "Date" line
- Record the Accuracy % for the passage your child just read
- Have your child color in the vertical bar from the bottom of the section UP TO their accuracy percentage for the passage your child just read
- Record the Words Correct Per Minute
- Have your child color in the vertical bar from the bottom of the section UP TO their WCPM



## Practice Reads (Reading Throughout the Week)

Throughout the week, have your child practice reading the same passage aloud independently or to you. If possible, have them read aloud to you so you can address errors. For these practice reads, you should allow your child to read the whole passage and not stop them at the 1-minute mark, so they are able to practice reading all the words in the passage. These practice reads are NOT recorded on the Tracking Chart.

## Warm Read (Last Reading, End of the Week)

Follow the same procedure as in the Cold Read, including calculating the Accuracy Percentage and Words Correct Per Minute and then charting them. The goal is for both of these numbers to increase by the end of the week; however, be aware that as accuracy increases, sometimes their speed (WCPM) will decrease. This is not a problem. Accuracy is the most important aspect of fluency; speed will come with more practice of accurate reading.

# Sample Tracking Chart



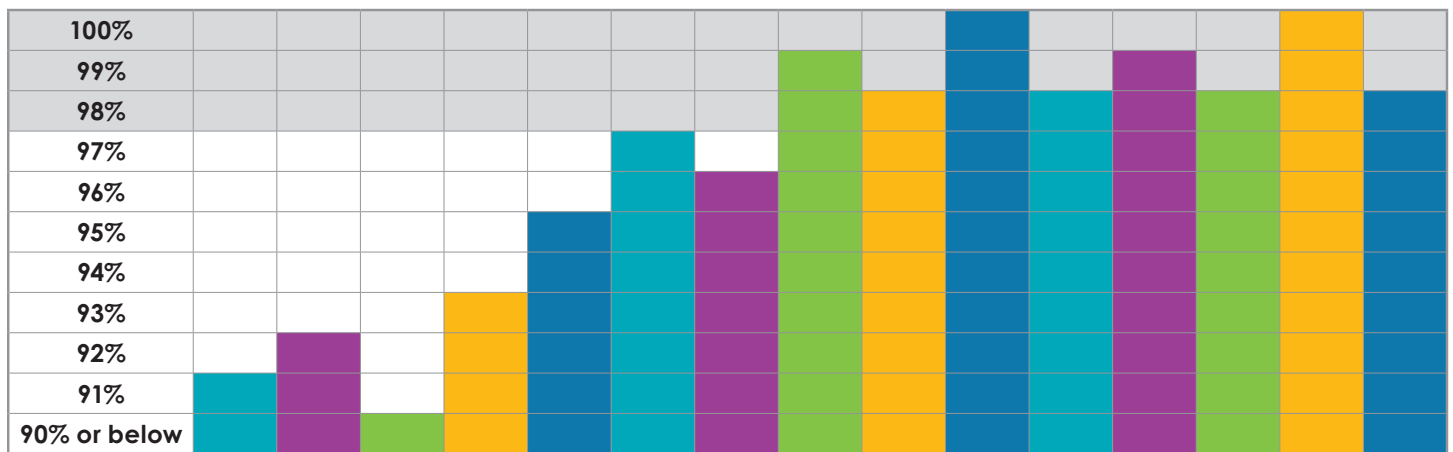
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	10/10	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/9	10/11	10/14	10/18	10/22	10/23	10/26	10/27	10/28	10/31	11/03
------	-------	------	------	------	------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

## Accuracy Percentage

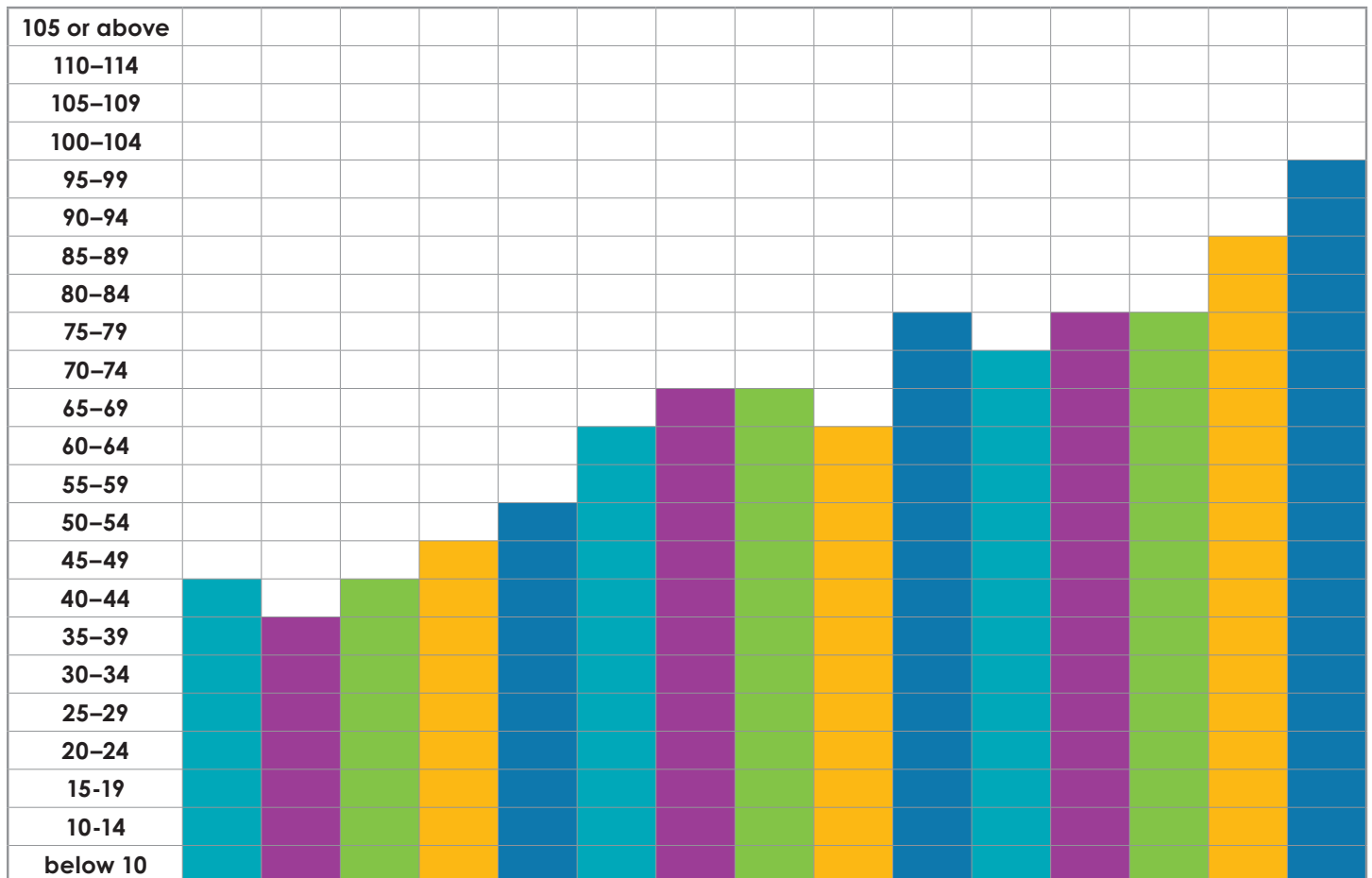
Goal is 98% or better

Accuracy	91 %	92 %	89 %	93 %	95 %	97 %	96 %	99 %	98 %	100%	98 %	99 %	98 %	100%	98 %
----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------



## Words Correct per Minute

WCPM	43	39	44	48	53	62	69	67	63	75	72	75	78	85	97
------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----



# Tracking Chart



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date																	
------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## Accuracy Percentage

Goal is 98% or better

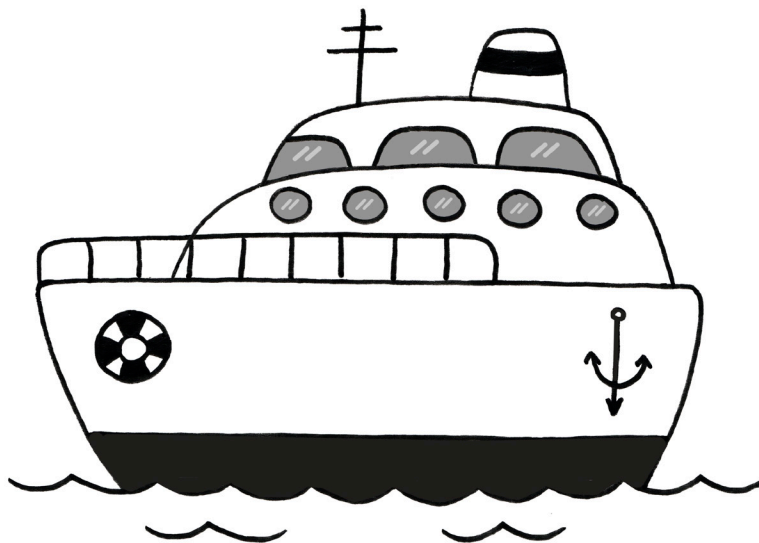
Accuracy	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
100%																
99%																
98%																
97%																
96%																
95%																
94%																
93%																
92%																
91%																
90% or below																

## Words Correct per Minute

WCPM																
105 or above																
110-114																
105-109																
100-104																
95-99																
90-94																
85-89																
80-84																
75-79																
70-74																
65-69																
60-64																
55-59																
50-54																
45-49																
40-44																
35-39																
30-34																
25-29																
20-24																
15-19																
10-14																
below 10																

## On the Ship

Sam, Dad, and I <u>take</u> a trip on a ship. We <u>take</u> a cab to	15
the ship and get on. The ship is big, and there is a lot to do.	31
Sam and I shop for a hat. Dad and I sit on a cot and fish.	47
I get three fish in a flash. One is too big, so my rod snaps. I	63
can get a new rod if I dash to the shop. At the shop, I see	79
Sam. We find Dad, and we all go eat. The hot ham dish is	93
good! We have jam and figs too. The figs <u>give</u> Sam a rash.	106
They go in the trash, and we go fish with my new rod. I will	121
miss the ship <u>when</u> we get off.	128



## The Rush to Camp

Gus was in a rush to get to camp. He could take a bus. 14

He could grab a cab. He had no cash, so he had to run 28

fast! Gus ran, but he did trip and land in the mud. When 41

he got to camp, his dad had a big grin, but his dad saw 55

the mud on his hands. Gus said, "I had no cash, so I had to 70

run in the hot sun. I did slip in a rut, so now I have mud on 87

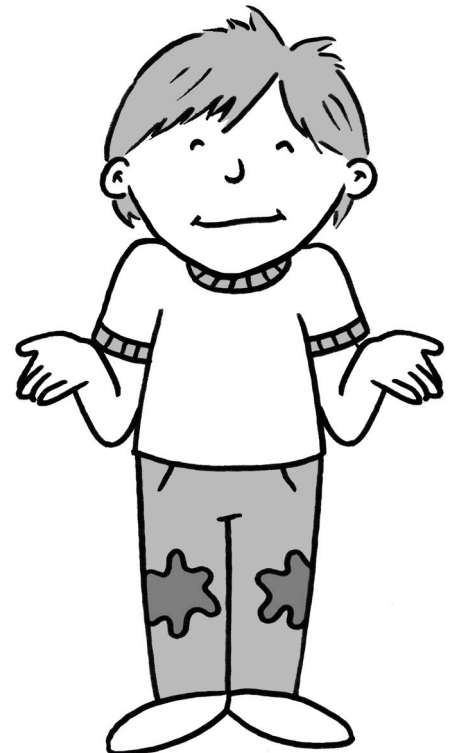
my hands." His dad was not mad. He gave Gus a hug and 100

said to hop in the tub. When Gus got 109

rid of the mud, he had fun at camp. His 119

dad gave him cash, so Gus could take 127

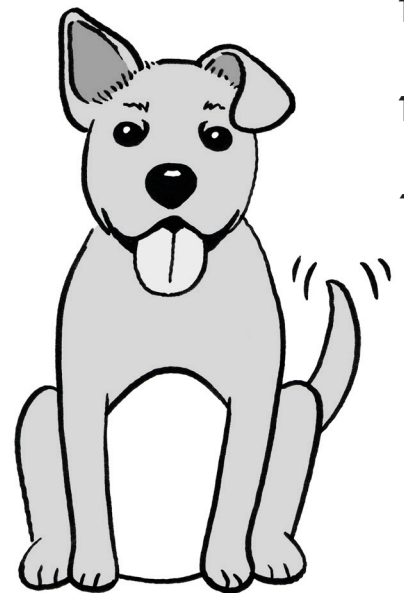
a cab when he must go. 133





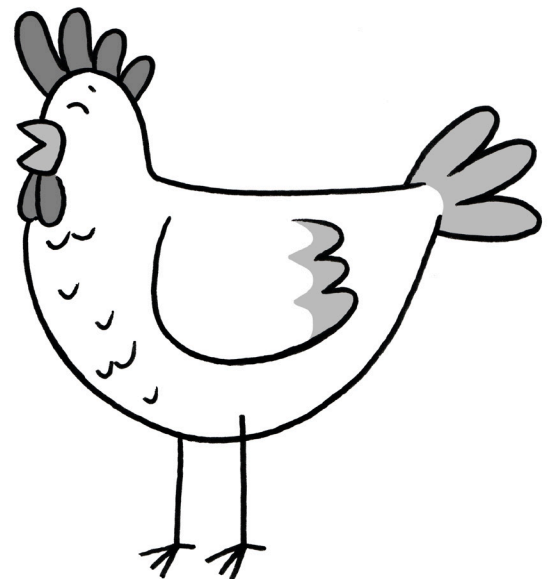
## A New Dog

Thad has a wish for a dog. He saw a slim tan dog at the 15  
 shop. His mom said that a dog can be fun for a kid, but 29  
 Thad will have to do a lot with the dog. Thad must walk 42  
 him on the path and take him to the vet. Thad will have to 56  
give the dog a hot bath in the tub, but not too hot. Then, 70  
 Thad must brush the dog. Thad will have to fill the dog dish 83  
 with mush. If not, the dog will get too thin. The dog will rush 97  
 and dash, and then he will take a nap. He will want a bed 111  
 to nap on. Dogs can just nap on the rug, but a soft pad 125  
 is best. Thad still has a wish for a dog. 135  
 He will go to the shop with his mom 144  
 to get the tan dog. 149



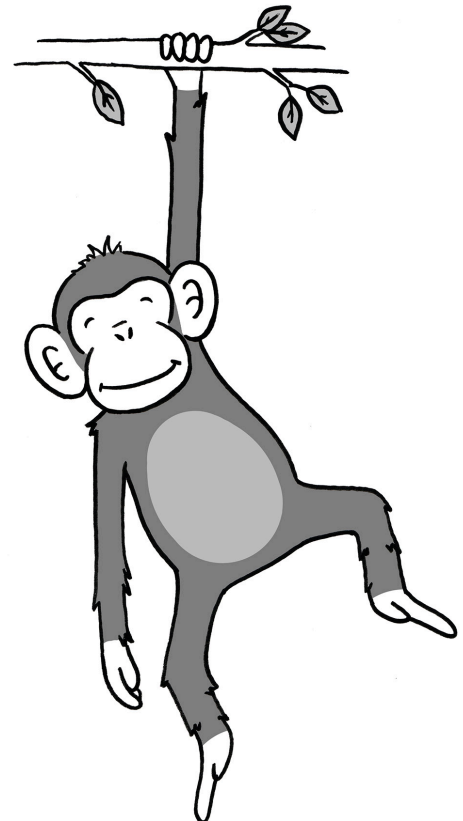
## Hens and Pigs

Jed has pigs and hens on his land. Jed's hens <u>live</u> in a big	14
pen. The hens yak and strut in the pen. The pen has a shed	28
in it. This is where the hens have beds. They can go in the	42
shed to nap and to get out of the sun. Hens like to eat	56
pests like grubs and bugs. Yum!	62
The pig pen is just to the west of the hen shed. The pig pen	77
has a pit of mud at one end. The pigs like to play, jump,	91
and jog in the wet mud. They like to eat slop out of a vat,	106
but they beg Jed for figs and yams.	114
Jed's hens and pigs are not pets. He can pat them, but	126
they do nip. Jed's pet is his cat.	134
The cat is his pal and will go to	143
the hen shed and the pig pen	150
with Jed. Then she sits in the sun	158
with Jed, and they rest.	163



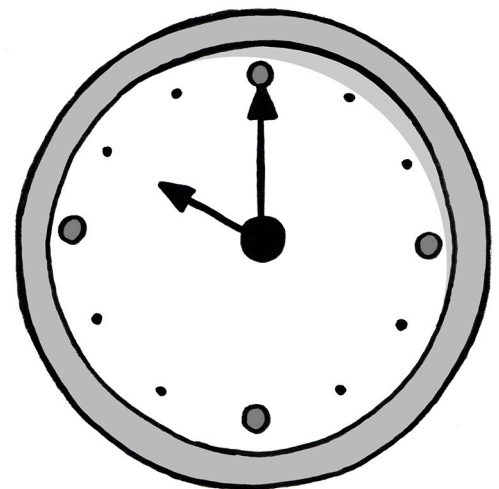
## The Chimp

Chip the chimp sits on a branch in an elm. For lunch, he	13
will munch and crunch on bugs. Then he will chat with his	25
sis. They will have so much fun that Chip's chum will stop	37
by too. The pals will jump from branch to branch. Chip	48
will thump his chest and so will his sis and his pal. Next,	61
the chimps will whip up a bit to eat and chit-chat. They	74
will chat and say which bugs are best to munch on and	86
which branch is best to rest on when the sun sets. Chip's	98
sis will see a dot on Chip's chin and	107
ask Chip if it is a bug. Chip will say it	118
is a bit of mud and brush it off. On a	129
whim, the chimps will go for a dip in	138
the pond. When the sun sets, they will	146
get a chill and find the best branch	154
to rest on. It is such fun to be a chimp!	165



## Tick Tock

Nick must <u>take</u> the duck and the chick to the vet at ten.	13
Tick tock. Nick must pack a quick snack to <u>take</u> with him.	25
He runs to the shack to find the duck. The duck quacks so	38
much that Nick must <u>give</u> him a stick from his snack pack	50
to lick. Then he must check the truck. The truck is stuck in	63
the muck. Nick can see Rick by the shed. Can Rick help?	75
Yes, Rick can help tug the truck out of the muck! They tug	88
the truck back to the shack. Now, Nick must <u>put</u> the duck	100
in the truck bed. Then they go down the track to pick up	113
the chick. He tucks the chick in a box. Tick tock. It is ten!	127
Nick and Rick <u>bring</u> the duck and the	135
chick to the vet.	139



## Fudge

Madge made a batch of fudge in the big Dutch pot. She 12

put in a pinch of this and a dash of that. I had a wedge of 28

it to judge if it was good. It was good! The fudge was soft, 42

but it did not melt in my hand. Then the fudge made the 55

edge of my hand itch. I got a red patch on my neck and 69

it did itch. The fudge was good, but it had nuts! I went to 83

fetch mom. Mom would give me a shot so I would not get 96

sick. I said to Madge, "The fudge is good, but it has nuts." 109

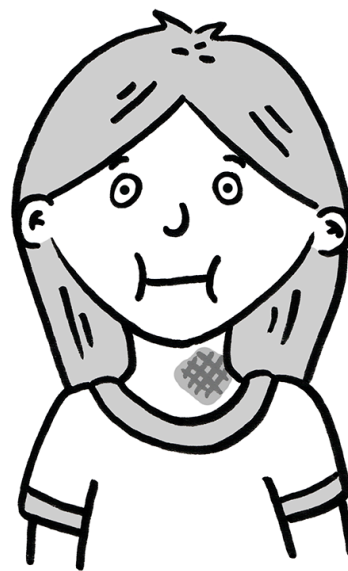
Madge put the fudge up on the ledge, and I sat down 121

for a bit. When the itch and the red 130

patch left, I felt top notch. Madge 137

and I made a new batch of fudge 145

with no nuts for me to eat. Yum! 153



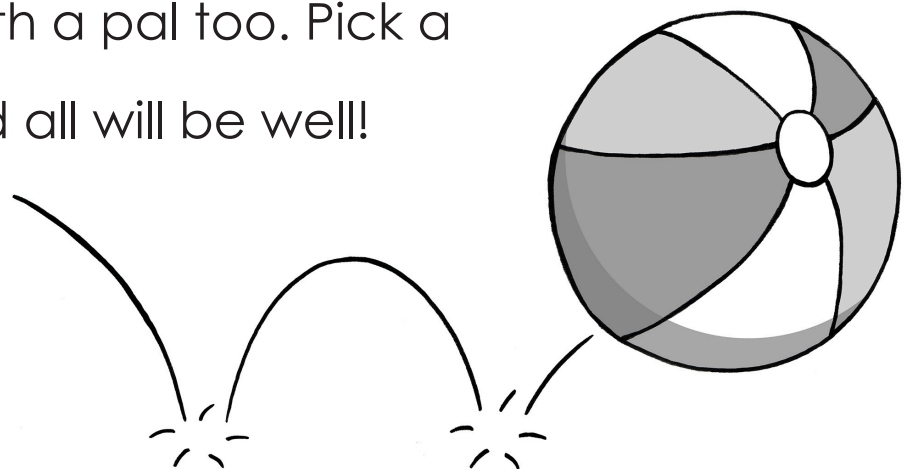
## The Fall

When I went to play ball, my mom did tell me not to run 14  
 too fast. She did not want me to miss a step and trip. I did 29  
 trip when I went to catch a pass from a pal in class. I fell 44  
 down in the tall grass. My leg had a cut, and I had grass 58  
 stuck in the cuff of my pants. I did not want to call for my 73  
 mom. I did not want her to fuss and say, "What a mess!" 86  
 My pal did pull me up and help me to the wall. I sat down 101  
 to let my leg rest. Then, my mom came and saw me on 114  
 the wall. She gave my leg a kiss 122  
 and said the mess was not bad. 129  
 She did dab the cut with a cloth 137  
 and brush the grass from the 143  
 cuff. Then, we went down the hill 150  
 and got new pants at the mall. 157



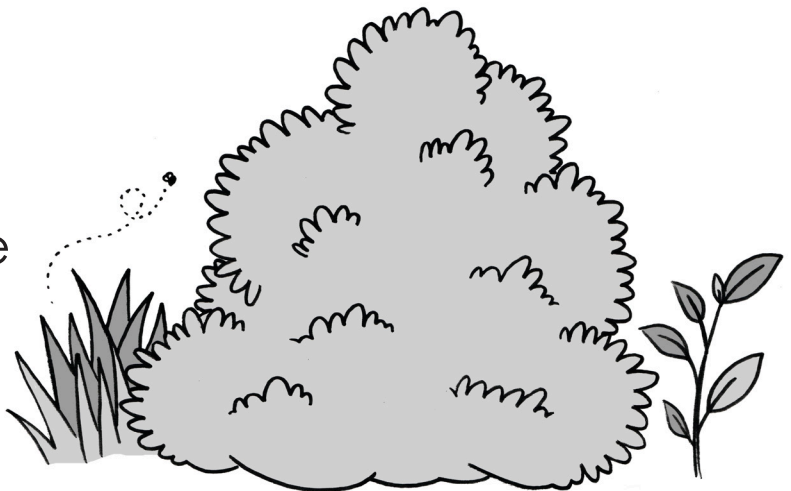
## A Ball

A ball can be fun. You can toss a ball. You can pitch a	14
ball. You can kick a ball. You can catch a ball, too. You	27
can catch a small ball with one hand and a big ball	39
with two hands. <u>Try</u> not to miss the ball. You <u>may</u> have to	52
budge from one spot to catch it. Duck if the ball is too fast	66
for you. Then, just pick up the ball from the grass. If you	79
have a dog, the dog can fetch the ball from the grass.	91
You can hit the ball with a bat. If you do not have a bat,	106
you can hit the ball with the edge of a thick stick. It is best	121
to ask a pal to play. A pal can toss the ball to you, and	136
you can pass the ball back. You can play a match of kick	149
ball or dodge ball with a pal too. Pick a	159
good <u>round</u> ball, and all will be well!	167



## Our Plants

When it is hot and the sun is up, I find lush plants on our	15
plot of land. <u>Some</u> are soft like moss and <u>some</u> are stiff. The	28
plants on the edge of the pond like to be kept damp. They	41
look like thin twigs in the wet sand. Frogs jump and catch	53
the bugs that land on the stems. To the left of the pond is a	68
hill with a grand shrub. There is a nest with six eggs on one	82
branch. In the fall, the shrub has red and brown specks.	93
Next to the shrub is a tall plant. We like to camp in a tent	108
by that plant. We pack a lamp to see past dusk and fresh	121
grub to snack on. The plants are lush when it is hot and	134
there is a lot of sun, but the plants do not like frost. <u>Some</u>	148
plants are lost when there	153
is a chill. Then new plants	159
come back as soon as the	165
frost ends.	167



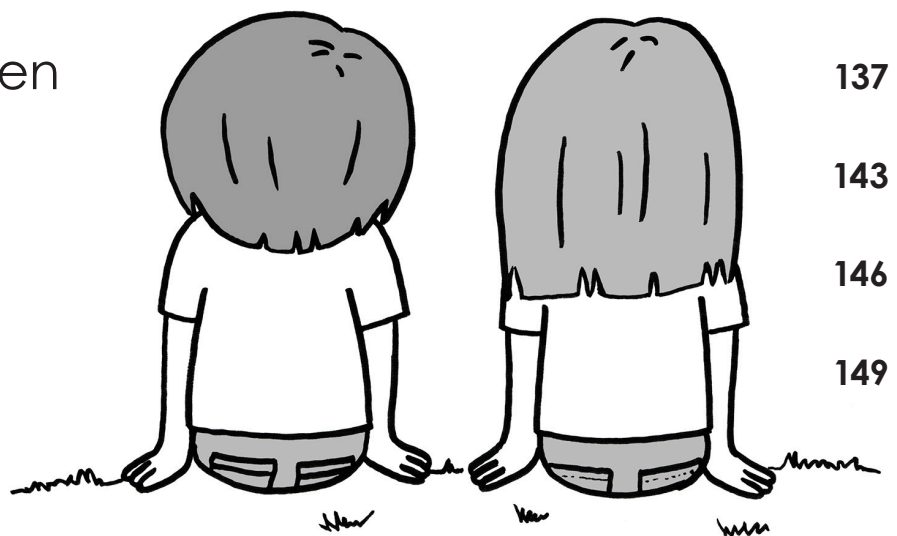


WORDS TO PREVIEW:

think, put, after, take

## The Potluck

Our class will have a potluck after the math test. Robin will 12  
make ham and eggs. Edwin will make a catfish sandwich. 22  
I think I will make a pumpkin dish. The setup will be quick. 35  
We will put down plastic cups and fabric napkins. When 45  
we finish, we will toss the cups in the trashcan and set the 58  
napkins back in the picnic box. After we eat, we will play 70  
catch on the blacktop. Then, we will take the path to the 82  
hilltop to see the sunset. We can have a contest to run to 95  
the tiptop of the hill. At the top, there is a windmill we can 109  
sit by to rest. Edwin will insist that we stop to see the sun dip 124  
down. We will not panic if we 131  
must run back at dusk. Then 137  
we will pack up. What a 143  
splendid potluck picnic 146  
it will be! 149



WORDS TO PREVIEW:

made, old, open, read

BLAST UNIT 15

Spelling 2-Syllable Words  
with Closed Syllables

170 words

# The Attic

Calvin went up to the cabin's attic to find his mom's old comics. 13

What would you expect him to find up there? Not just comics! He 26

saw a chipmunk run by him in a flash. This made Calvin panic, 39

and he got the hiccups. He fell into a plastic trashcan with lots of 53

tennis balls. When he got out, he saw a plastic rabbit on top of an 68

old laptop. He had to brush away a cobweb in disgust. At last, 81

he saw ten classic comics in a red fabric handbag under a small 94

bathtub. He came down from the attic and sat with the comics 106

and a snack. He went to flip a comic open and hit his glass. 120

What luck! The milk did not spill on the comics. His mom would be 134

upset if they got wet. He said he would just read them at 147

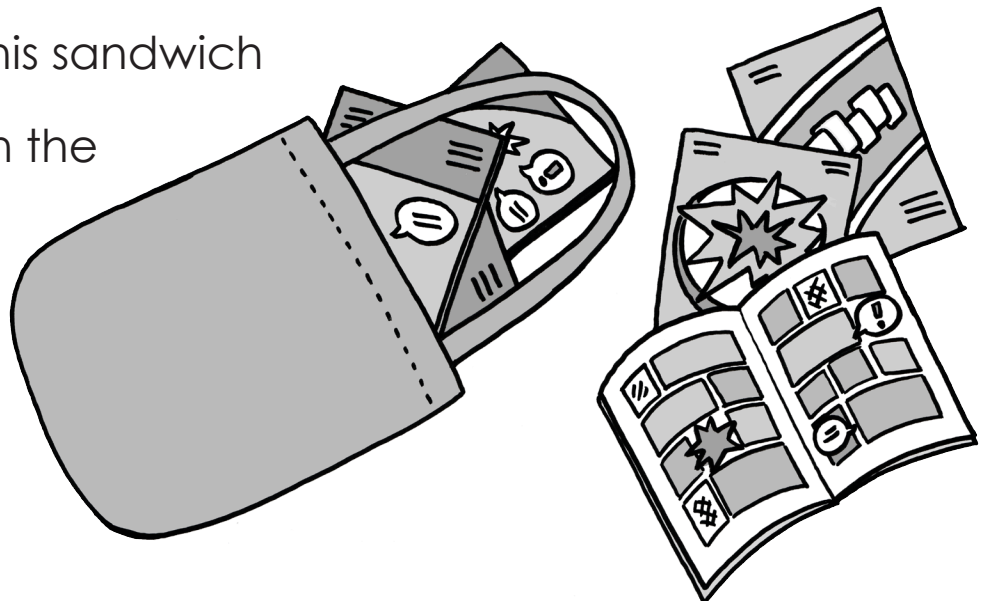
his desk. Calvin ate his sandwich 153

and then went down the 158

hall to his desk with 163

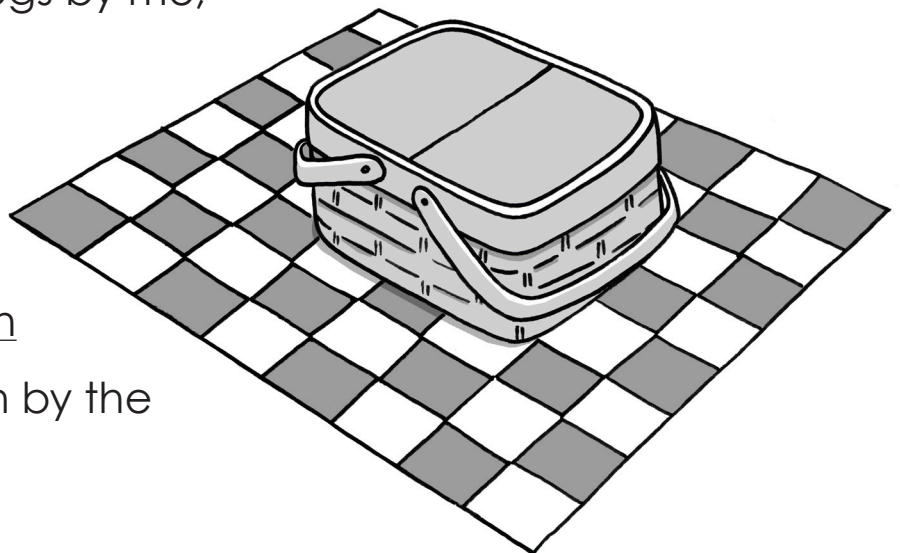
the comics. He will 167

read them all! 170



## The Picnic

Patrick and Flo went on a picnic. <u>First</u> , they had to unpack. Patrick	13
said, "Please go get the plastic cloth and the backpack from the	25
pickup truck. I will try to find a good spot for us." Patrick did inspect	40
the grass and got a spot with no rocks. Flo set the cloth down.	54
They had lunch under the blue sky. <u>First</u> , they had some eggnog from	67
a can. The top was stuck, so they had to pry it off. Then, they had	83
a fish fry and split a relish and pumpkin sandwich. Flo said that the	97
sandwich was so good that Patrick <u>could</u> be a pro.	107
<u>After</u> lunch, Patrick did panic when a big insect with six legs sat in a	122
cobweb next to him. With a little jump and a yell, he put a napkin on	138
top of it and ran! Patrick did try not to cry.	149
Flo said, "Why are you upset, Patrick?"	156
"There was a bug with six legs by me,"	165
Patrick said with a shy grin.	171
Flo put the insect in the	177
public trashcan. It was	181
funny, but she did not <u>laugh</u>	187
at him. They sat back down by the	195
cloth to see the sunset.	200



WORDS TO PREVIEW:

about, many, think, use

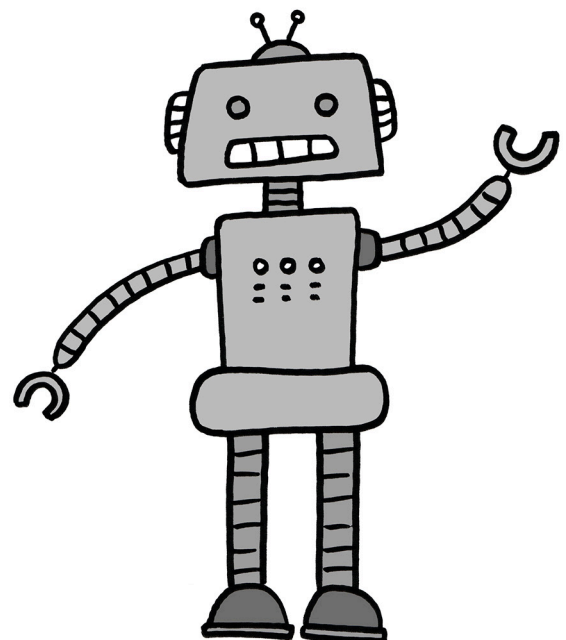
BLAST UNIT 17

Two-Syllable Words  
with Open and Closed  
Syllables & Chunking

187 words

# Robots

You can program robots to do many things. Robots can do basic things like say “hello.” They can take a photo and play music. Robots could be good at making a snack as you are taking a bath.	12 25 38
Robots can add and subtract to find a result. They can even do complex math. You can program robots to protect a secret camp or to plan a trip to Fresno. Some robots are silent, but some will respond if you chat with them. You can program robots to tell you <u>about</u> things like new events or the lunch menu.	52 64 78 91 98
Robots can do <u>many</u> things, but there is a limit to what they can do. Robots cannot relax. They cannot be in a hotdog tasting event. They will not <u>use</u> napkins. Robots cannot get sick with a virus and cannot hiccup. Insects cannot sting them. Robots will not have a tantrum or get upset if they get a zero on a test. They will not brag <u>about</u> winning a math contest. You can program a robot to do <u>many</u> things, but they cannot <u>think</u> or act with no help.	113 125 138 144 154 164 171 179 187



WORDS TO PREVIEW:

first, laugh, show, think

BLAST UNIT 18

Schwa in Two-Syllable  
Words with Open and  
Closed Syllables

194 words

## The Puppet Show

There is a puppet show at six in the local children's hall across the canal. You may want to see it. I even have extra tickets for the second show at seven if you would like to go. I went to the latest show, so I can tell you about it. First, you will see a chimp puppet on a canvas hammock. He will be munching on some bacon. Then, a cricket puppet will come hopping across the grass to a picnic blanket. It will pick at the spinach salad that the humans put down. You will see a panda puppet in the branches chomping on stems and a piglet puppet hunting for bugs. The piglet thinks the cricket would be good to eat. He is about to chomp down, but at that instant, the panda falls off the branch and happens to land in the spinach salad! The puppets all laugh and the children all clap. At the end, the panel is taken down and the humans who pretend to be the puppets say hello. There is so much talent in this show. You will not regret it if you happen to go.



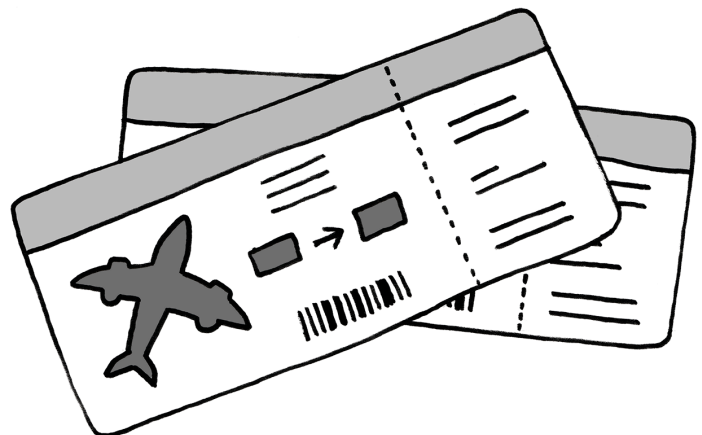
## Take a Trip

If you do not want to be stuck at home this fall, plan a trip. Pick a date, 18  
 select a spot, and go. You can stick close to home or travel the globe to a 35  
 distant land. If you stick close, you could drive. If you go far, you could ride 51  
 a bus, take a plane, or even fly in a blimp. You could visit a new state like 69  
 Texas or a spot like the Grand Canyon. You could attend an event in your 84  
 home state too. Hit the blacktop and plan for a nonstop trip. Safe travels! 98

Make a note of things you want to do on your quest. It can be fun to 115  
 branch out and try new things, not the same things you do at home. You 130  
 may want to see a local ball game or a play about a brave robot. If you 147  
 want to have a picnic, you could make a snack or a sandwich and take 162  
 it with you. You could be brave and try a new plate for lunch. If you want 179  
 some milk or punch on the go, take time to bring a thermos. 192

You do not have to spend a lot. You and your pal could ride a bike to 209  
 the lake and fly a kite in the blue sky or just bring a blanket and laze for a 228  
 moment. You could go for a swim, catch a wave, or run in a zigzag on the 245  
 white sand. If you go on a hike, bring your compass so you do not get lost. 262

You may even find a cave, canyon, or 270  
 tunnel to inspect. So, save your extra 277  
 nickels in a can, and then fetch them 285  
 and make it happen. I hope you rave 293  
 about your trip when you come back. 300



## Camping

Jolene and Blake want to take a camping trip to escape for a while. 14  
They get the tent out of the basement and pack the van. They invite 28  
Jake to come with them, but he has plans to see the parade. When 42  
Jolene and Blake get there, they locate a good spot to pitch the tent 56  
and complete the campsite setup. Jolene brings a mattress to inflate 67  
inside the tent. It is better if she puts the mattress on the grass and not 83  
on concrete. After the campsite is set, they go on a hike to see the 98  
landscape. They find a path on the map and begin. It is good to be 113  
out in the sunshine! At lunchtime, they have a homemade sandwich 124  
and a pancake made over an open flame. On the path back to 137  
camp, they have a small debate about where to go left, but Jolene 150  
has a compass and they find the campsite. It is late when they get 164  
back. They ignite a log with a match and grill hotdogs on sticks. At 178  
bedtime, they are careful to put out the flame and zip up the tent to 193  
keep safe. When it is time to go 201  
home, they are polite and pick 207  
up their trash. They take down the 214  
tent and pile into the van. Then, 221  
they drive home. 224



## The Beach

Do not wait. On the next sunny day, go to a beach. The beach could 15  
 be at the lake or at the sea. There are many ways to spend a day 31  
 at the beach. If you just want to relax, set up a chair and read. You 47  
 could read an essay or a novel. It can be good to just feel the wind in 64  
 your hair and the sand beneath your feet. Please be careful not to fall 78  
 asleep in the sun and always have sunscreen on. 87

If you want to have a playful day, there are plenty of things to do at 103  
 the beach. Go for a walk and get your feet messy with grains of sand. 118  
 Go for a swim where it is clear from seaweed. Jump in and leap over 133  
 a tall wave. Play frisbee with a pal in the sunshine. You can finish by 148  
 eating your meal on a blanket. 154

You will find that there is a lot to do and see at the beach. You may 171  
 see snails in shells or catch a peek at fish in the reef. If the sea is clean 189  
 and clear and you are lucky, you may 197  
 see eels deep down. At a lake, 204  
 you may run into some crayfish 210  
 or catfish. If you just need to get 218  
 away, find a beach nearby and 224  
 go. You will be happy you went! 231





## Trick or Treat

While some kids like to trick-or-treat, Randy does not. His pal Betsy squeals with delight at white sheets that float in the trees and black bats that swing from the branches, but these things give Randy a fright. He does not like how frightful the streets look when daylight ends, but he does like the free candy he gets. So, he grabs a flashlight and goes down the road to trick-or-treat with Betsy.

Betsy tells Randy his light will reveal that there is no need to be afraid. The thing Randy sees might look like a pile of bones, but in the beam of the flashlight, it is just a pile of sticks. Randy thinks there is moaning and groaning to the right, but in the light, it is just a swing swaying in the wind.

Randy and Betsy get to a driveway and walk up the steps. A tall man in a raincoat with a cloak and a top hat hands them some candy. This brightens their night, and they go on. Next, they approach a lady in a green dress and tight socks with a toad made of foam in her right hand. She hands them a pack of gum.

Randy is feeling brave. "No sight can frighten me," he boasts. He stands upright and puts the flashlight away in his coat pocket.

Wait, where did Betsy go? "Hi!" she yells as she jumps out from the oak tree. Randy goes stiff with fright. Then, he grabs his flashlight and sees it is just Betsy. They laugh. They take their load of candy home and have hot cocoa. Randy is glad to be toasty and safe inside.



## Ted's Bad Day

Friday was not a good day for Ted. He woke up with the sun, checked the clock, and saw that it was nine. He was late! Ted landed on a plastic game token as he jumped out of bed, so he limped down the hall. Ted wanted eggs. He opened the fridge to find them, whisked them in a dish, and then dumped them into a hot pan. While he waited, he made toast. Then Ted brushed his teeth, packed his backpack, and left for class.

Ted missed the math test and had to take it at lunch. He munched on his sandwich while he added seven and three. He was just about done when he bumped his glass and spilled milk on the test. Ted was lucky. Miss Best could still read the test and he passed. Ted leaped away from his desk and ran. He made it before the kickball game ended. He played for one inning. Ted kicked the ball far but stained his pants when he slid into home plate.

Ted painted in the next class. He mixed red and blue paint. As he squished the paint out, it sprayed on his smock and in his hair. His pal fetched a napkin and helped Ted clean up. What a day! Ted could not wait to go home.

On his walk home, Ted dented his lunchbox when it fell on a rock. By now, Ted was fed up. He jumped up the steps and went inside. His mom had left a cupcake as a snack with a note that said, "I hope you had a good day. From, Mom." That made Ted smile. He ate the cupcake and felt much better.



# Ruby's Dreams

Steve's dog Ruby twitched in her sleep. Steve wanted to know what Ruby was dreaming about. Was she dreaming about the cats they had seen on their walk? While Steve and Ruby rested on the bench, three cats across the street had flicked their tails at Ruby. She had wanted to chase them, but Steve kept a tight grip on her leash. Maybe Ruby was chasing after them in her dream.

"What do dogs dream about?" Steve asked himself. Steve often dreamed of things he wished he could do. In some dreams, Steve was a painter or a singer. In some dreams, Steve was a baseball player, winning the game as his coaches clapped. One time, Steve dreamed he could run faster than a speeding train and jump higher than the tallest wall. Not all of Steve's dreams were good dreams. Once, in a bad dream, Steve was falling out of the sky while gripping a trumpet. He ended up landing in a soft pile of boxes, but it was frightful!

Steve did not think Ruby had the same dreams. Ruby might dream of eating treats or catching a ball or chasing foxes around the trees. She did not dream of acting in a play or flying a plane like Steve might. Steve could not know what she was dreaming of, but he trusted Ruby was dreaming a good dream. When she woke up, she stretched and wagged her tail, begging Steve to take her on a walk.



# My Siblings

I have five siblings and each one is taller than the next. Let's begin with Tim.	16
He is the tallest. He likes sailing and has no fear of the deep blue sea. When he takes me on the boat with him, it feels like we go faster than a speeding train.	34
Sammy is not as tall as Tim, but he is still taller than the rest of us. Last week, Sammy wanted to make a frozen soda treat. He did not know that soda expands in the freezer until the can cracked open. The soda slush was a mess, but tasty!	51
Next is Blake. He is the same size Tim was when Tim was ten. Mom adds patches to Tim's old pants for Blake. I think Blake wishes he could shop for new pants, but he does not whine about it. He is silent unless he is cheering for his baseball team.	70
My sis Beth is smaller than Tim, Sammy, and Blake, but she is taller than Gail. When Beth plans to spend time with her pals, Mom tells her it would be polite to invite Gail too. If Beth is going out, Gail always goes with her. I think it is funny because Beth and Gail are not alike. Beth likes to try new things and visit her pals. Gail likes to stay inside and read. They have one thing in common. They both like to play hide and seek with me. I always win because I can hide in tiny spots.	85
I am the smallest one of the bunch. Last year, I was upset that I could not do the same things as my siblings. This year, I am older and wiser. My teacher tells me that when you are upset, you can try to find the bright side. Mom <u>never</u> asks me to put away the dishes because I cannot reach the shelf!	101
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Really Great Reading